



# RATT PUBLICATIONS

Proudly presents from the files of the

*Genealogical Institute*

*Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute*

## "GENESIS...in the BEGINNING"

BY

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

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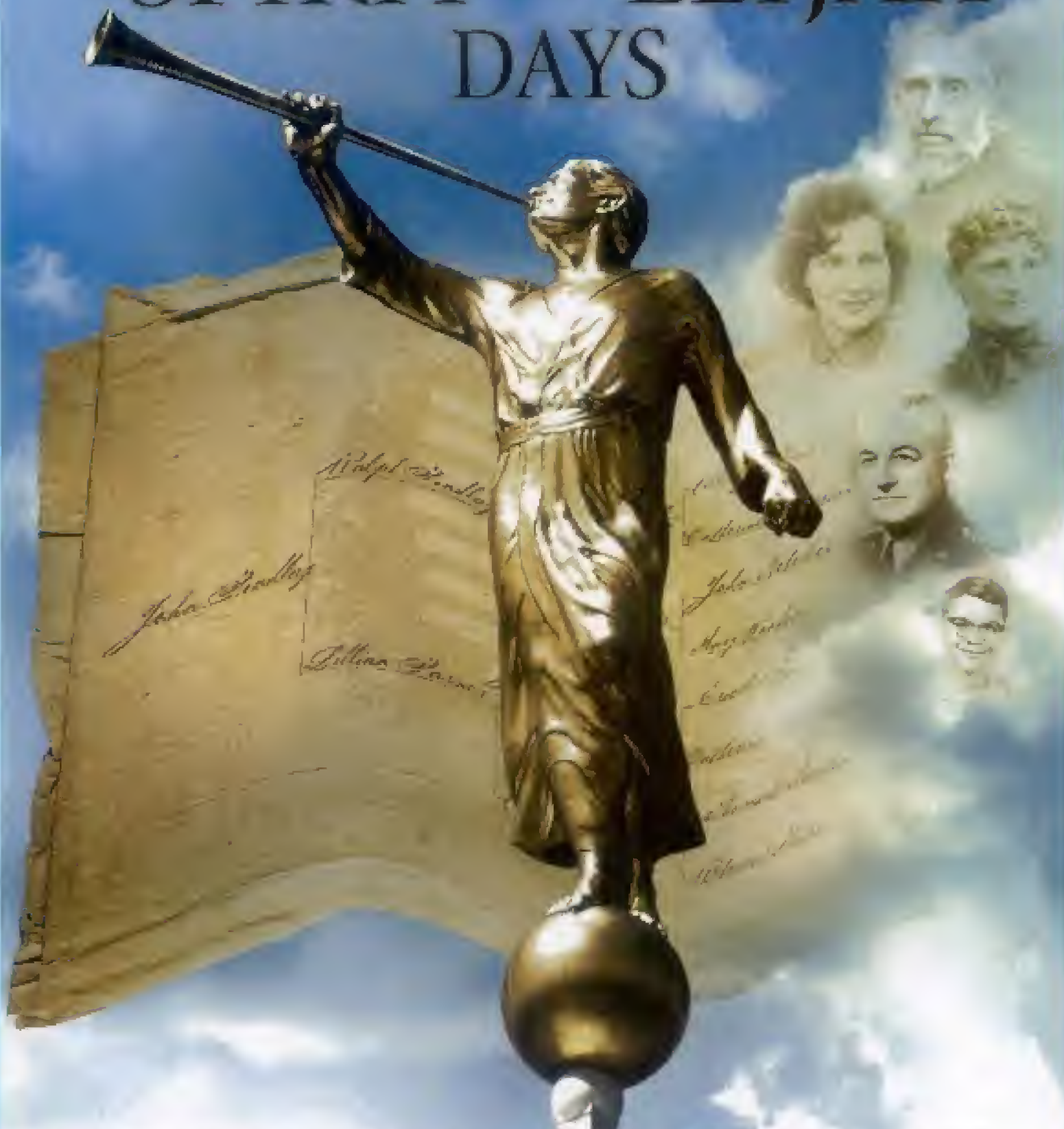
*M.A.G.I.* Course #1 educates the student to the historical origins and revelations concerning the birth of modern day genealogy. We hope this course not only educates, but also instills respect for our pioneer researchers; whose dedication and sacrifices are responsible for the ancestral knowledge we possess today.

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

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# SPIRIT OF ELIJAH DAYS



**"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6**



# Genealogical Institute

## MASTER ACCREDITATION OF THE GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE

*M.A.G.I. Syllabus*

*By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

### Course Lesson 1:

#### "Genesis...in the Beginning"

#### INTRODUCTION

There are scores of books describing how to research your family tree. Some emphasize Internet connections, others dwell on family histories and others describe available public resources.

None of these books actually *teach* you systematically how to research your family history. The best way to teach family history is by example. Only by emulating someone's example who has "been there", and done it all can one expect to achieve some form of success.

With these research shortcomings in various books in mind, I have devised a system of courses, which actually teaches the novice a "hands-on" approach to researching skills necessary to create family history documents suitable for publication. After completion of ALL the *M.A.G.I.* courses you will feel you are qualified and will have achieved a level of proficiency of a professional genealogist.

These courses are titled the *Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute* or better known by the acronym, *M.A.G.I.*

Many researchers feel they already know how to research their family history. However, I have found many researchers can only perform one or more tasks.

- [1] Some are Internet pirates and can copy information from the Internet someone else has posted.
- [2] Some cut and paste family data, pictures, dates and places and consider this family history research.
- [3] Others have developed some research skills and can create local or civic histories.
- [4] Others have developed proficiency in writing personal histories and biographies but know very little concerning the research process.

Very few have attained a level of skills mastering the spectrum of genealogical research *i.e.*, interviewing, researching, source development, compiling, document organizing, computer program utilization, road trip mastery, enhancements and publications.



The Master Accreditation course was developed to teach the skills necessary to achieve a Master designation in genealogical research with the proficiency of a doctorate at the academic level. This is achieved through years of study and dedication to the art and science of genealogical research.

Each *M.A.G.I.* course emphasizes at least one of the three phases of family history proficiency.

First; Research

Second: Compilation

Third; Exposition or publishing

Within each of these divisions lies a significant amount of educational information.

*M.A.G.I.* Course #1 “**Genesis...in the Beginning**” was designed to acquaint the researcher with the origin and history of genealogy also known as family history research and the progress of the use of modern day tools for its progression and popularity.

This course examines all facets of family history research from its prophetic origins to the preparation through inspiration and implementation by various inspired individuals.

This course reveals the originator of family history research and the steps taken to fulfill latter day prophecy as depicted in the Holy Scriptures.

We take a stroll, with the author through the early years and look at the last 50 years of the evolution of family history research and the impact this multimillion-dollar industry has had on society.

Upon completion of this lesson, the student is enlightened to the divine purpose and eternal consequences of family history research and the importance of such endeavors.

Paid subscribers, upon completion of this lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the *M.A.G.I.* designation. Upon completion of all *M.A.G.I.* course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the *M.A.G.I.* designation.

These courses have been posted on various websites for the public without compensation to the author. These postings were approved in harmony with a spirit of cooperation to help advance research knowledge benefiting all researchers hoping to increase knowledge, skills and research proficiency.

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2011 revised 2014

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***GENEALOGY WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION...IS MYTHOLOGY***

**OBJECTIVE**

To acquaint the researcher with the origin and history of genealogy also known as family history research and the use of modern day tools for its progression.

**MOTIVATION...**

Your average researcher may be doing family research out of curiosity, pride, fame, even some for fortune, however, most researchers are probably just curious about their family "roots" and seek additional information where they can obtain such.

Regardless of what motivates these researchers, many have no idea or clue as to where or how the researching process took place or where this information was obtained.

Some assume it has always been available and obtainable through the Internet. With a click of a mouse button they can read any census of any year in any state. They can search marriage records from various counties in almost any state. They can read newspapers, war records and social security information from their desk, and if they are willing to pay third-party vendors a fee...they can access so many records and family histories as to boggle the mind.

However, this was not always the case and many of you "newbies" do not have an appreciation or full understanding as to how, when and who has made available to the public, these wonderful family histories that have been obtained from thousands of researchers without proper recognition and compensation.

Rarely will these vendors pay a fee to the proper author's to obtain these records but seem willing to charge a fee for the same information, which was given freely to them for public access by subscribers. This is unfair and unbalanced and does not compensate the very people who have paid their research dues throughout the years collecting and researching.

However, this is the capitalistic way and until the United Order can be established we have no other options.

**IN THE BEGINNING...**

Since my research began in the mid 1970's, let me relate to you my experiences concerning the deplorable conditions of family history research at that time.

There were no records in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints archives for my direct line ancestors or tributary ancestral lines. It did not appear any of my ancestors had joined the church and did any research on my families.

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The members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are mandated by the Lord to research and provide Temple ordinances for the living as well as for their kindred dead.

This belief has not only been validated in present day revelation, but, also through the Prophets as it was revealed in ancient scriptures...more about this later.

Nevertheless, family history interest did not blossom until after Elijah's visit to the Saints on April 3, 1836.

**FIRST CONTACT...**

When one engages into the science of family history research, contacting other researchers who may know something about your families is the first order of business.

In the Crawford, Washington & Franklin County areas of Missouri, I ran across three women who had done a considerable amount of research on the Blantons, Pratts, Harmons and Carters.

- Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed, wife of Harvey John Reed lived in Desloge, Missouri.
- Dolly Dollie (**STUDDARD**) Lahmann, wife of Chester Lahmann lived south of Sullivan, Missouri.
- Julia Mae (**HARMON**) Blanton, wife of Roy Lewis Blanton lived outside of Steelville, Missouri.

Each of these fine ladies has since crossed over the veil, but they are responsible for pointing me in the right directions when it came to the Blantons, Harmons and Carters family history.

However, the Pratt family research they had done was fragmented and heavier on the Blanton side. Since none of them except Dolly had Pratts directly in their lines, their research was not as thorough as their other lines...with the exception of Mabel Reed's research.

Mabel concentrated on the Carter, Harmon and Pratt angle and had some Blanton data. But the original letters, which I have kept through the years were hand written and did not contain much documented information. They included names, dates and places without verification or sources.

However, in their defense, let me tell you the extraordinary work they had accomplished under such primitive working conditions.

There were no computers to view these records, or were there printed sources for these records. You couldn't buy a CD for \$14.95 with the entire 1880 census. Everything had to be obtained from the actual source location; Marriage Books, Deed Records, Tax Rolls, Land Grants, and Wills all had to be viewed at the County Courthouses.

Or viewed at the repository in which they rested. Therefore, if your ancestor lived in Franklin County, Missouri you had to go to the courthouse in Union, Missouri to view these records.

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Many civil authorities were reluctant to allow you to see their records...especially in the larger cities. Sometimes you had to give them your request and they would go look it up for you.

In the smaller courthouses in the rural counties, when you did get to look at an old marriage, deed, and court book, you were astonished to see your ancestors there. What a thrill!

The courthouses charged 20¢ for copies. You could get birth and death records from the state of Missouri for only a \$1 fee.

But after the genealogical boom, (more about that later) the civil government said, "Hey there's money to be made in this genealogy research so let's gouge the public". Now it cost \$10 for birth and death records, 50¢ for copies.

The state of North Carolina passed a law requiring anyone with a residence out-of-state had to pay a \$25 research fee per request at their State Archives. Research for local residents was free.

After the boom, genealogy and related items has become big revenue for civil, local and state governments.

When a researcher took a road trip, there was so much information and so little time to view these records many didn't get to see all they wanted to see.

However, because of the time constraint of making a living, raising a family and other obligations the work progressed at a snails pace.

Also, depending where you lived, you may not get to go back as often as you liked. Mable lived at Desloge, Missouri, Julia outside of Steelville, Missouri and Dolly south of Sullivan, Missouri. I lived in Springfield, Missouri from 1973 to 1984.

### **HOW WAS IT DONE?...**

As mentioned earlier, if you wanted to see the marriage records of a given county, you had to drive to that county and look them up. As mentioned before, many county courthouses were not as accommodating as they are today and many would not allow you to see the actual books, but would take your request and look them up for you.

But most counties allowed the researcher access to the marriage, deed, court and other records in their possession and only charged a fee for copies, which were about 10¢.

If you wanted to know who was buried in a certain cemetery, you drove to that cemetery and looked for yourself. Very few books if any, could be found concerning cemeteries and their inhabitants.

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Talking to the "old timers" in the area of interest, would yield locations of hidden cemeteries and burial grounds on various farms, which may have included your ancestors.

These encounters meant long and various sojourns into the wilderness wading through waist high grass and weeds, braving ticks, chiggers, snakes, wild animals, dangerous and impassable roads sometimes through deep and treacherous creeks, gulleys and paths all in the pursuit of ancestral knowledge.

Of course the reward was meeting new friends and finding information about your ancestors others may enjoy hearing or reading about.

Another source of research was the unlikelyhood of finding books about your ancestors in the local public library, which also housed the local Genealogical Society's collection. Depending on the size of the city and their funds and resources, these library's genealogical resources could be substantial.

What I found was not much local history concerning the county in which they were housed but mainly state material such as Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and other eastern state's information. Since the funds to purchase these books were donated by those who had a particular interest in a certain locale, then most likely there were no records or books that would have your family information.

If you lived in a small town, chances are you did not have much printed information at your disposal. Therefore, you had to travel long distances to get to libraries, which may have housed substantial family history material.

### **LIBRARIES....**

Once you arrived at your library of choice, you had to gather your wits and begin the deciphering process. This included focusing on your primary objective. Many times when confronted with overwhelming source information, one tends to become confused and lose their focus in the research process.

Knowing what you wanted to achieve before you attempted your research trip, enabled you to keep focused on your goals.

There were several resource divisions in each library that may have been of interest to family history researchers.

Today, these divisions are distinct and offer extensive research material, but back in the early 1970's, all the family history material could be located on a few shelves, depending on the library or maybe as it was in St. Louis, a whole room designated for such purposes.

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If you were lucky, someone from the local community may have written a book on their family history and may have mentioned your ancestors. However, most likely, no one at that time had done any serious research and *you* were the only one interested in your ancestors.

In my case, this is precisely what I discovered.

Most of the books in the library dedicated to family research were basic standard books covering whole states like Tennessee, Virginia, Pennsylvania all easterly located with very few if any of the Midwest or the western states.

Some of these books were Goodspeed publications along with major historical books dedicated to the region's local history. What was printed was of not much value, especially if your ancestors had fallen through the cracks in those books.

In order to connect to some of those ancestors in those books you had to know who your family line was derived from and all the dots in between in order to make a connection. This is where the hardcore research of field trips had to come into play because no one, I repeat **NO ONE** knew your family's direct line.

The only place you could trace generations were from the census records.

**BRIDGING WITH CENSUS RECORDS...**

Up to that point in time, no one had any census books available in printed form.

Bryon Sistler was the first publisher to print the indexes only for selected Federal census records into book form. He only covered certain years and certain states.

I remember seeing his census books for Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and thought how wonderful someday to have them for the middle states as well. However, the transcribing process had to be developed slowly over time for each state.

My first printed census form, I ordered from a computer company was sent on 14" green bar computer paper, if you can remember those. It was a list of all the Pratts in the 1790 census. It didn't do me any good because I didn't even know who my great grandfather was let alone my 1790 Pratt ancestor.

Most libraries did not have the financial resources to obtain the full federal census for each state on microfilm from the National Archives. The St. Louis Public Library was the only place I knew housing all 50 states and all the censuses up to 1890 on microfilm.

The only repository that had the resources allowing you to view the records on microfilm was the local Genealogy Library (now called the Family History Center) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

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And for \$2.75 you could order records for any county in any state from Salt Lake and view them indefinitely on microfilm at their libraries. This included marriage, deed, court and census records.

It took weeks to get your order filled and when your film arrived, a library patron would call you and inform you of its arrival. You had 2 weeks to review the film unless you wanted to pay an extra fee for an indefinite status.

Shortly after I started researching in 1976, the 1900 census was made available to the public.

Some public libraries had maybe 1, 2 or 3 microfilm machines and they were never all busy at the same time. Only the large libraries could afford microfilm or microfiche machines and due to the lack of prioritized interest by the patrons, they were not being used very often except by a few stalwart researchers like myself.

Like I had previously stated, depending on the finances of the local Genealogical Societies of each city, the family history room could be comprised of a few shelves devoted to family history books to a full room, like the ones in St. Louis and Springfield, Missouri.

So, those researchers who had to travel 30, 40 or more miles just to get to a library housing microfilm machines hoped the library also had census records on microfilm so they could find their families.

When I moved down to Bradenton, Florida in 1994, I still had to drive a 100 mile round trip to Tampa to their library to view their vast collection of census records on microfilm. Their Library was the only one in the area that had a decent collection.

Each page in a census locale had to be viewed and deciphered. If your family were living in Crawford County, Missouri, then you might start with where you last knew they had resided, *i.e.*, if they lived in Bourbon, which was in Boone Township, and you were looking for them in the 1880 census you would look in Boone Township, Crawford County, Missouri, which has 23 census pages.

However, if they were not in Boone Township, you had to look for them in the surrounding townships of Crawford County, which has an additional 228 pages.

Each page had to be scrutinized for various spellings, handwritings and slang that could have represented your ancestors.

If you were looking in the 1900 census of Boone Township, Crawford County, Missouri, the Boone Township page had grown from 23 pages to 31 pages and the entire County had grown from 228 pages to 245 pages.

If you still could not find them in the whole county of Crawford then you would have to shift your search to neighboring counties which contained thousands of pages, which was time consuming and tedious.

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Sometimes this took hours and days before you were able to find them. Sometimes they left the state or moved to far away places in the state and you never could find them.

You hoped other researchers may have had the census data you needed, but they had the same problem you had and maybe they had the 1850 and 1860 census information but could not find any other census records.

Finding those census records was vital to connecting the dots from your ancestor's grave backward to the cradle.

Without knowing whom your ancestor's parents were, you could not make a connection to older ancestors and maybe they were one of those listed in the books concerning Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

Only by spending long hours at those microfilm machines could you hope for the connections and successes. However, inch-by-inch, name-by-name the researchers of old discovered their families and with census information were able to bridge generations and create an ancestral line as far as they could validate.

I sold insurance as a vocation and this afforded me the opportunity to have spare time in the daytime to sit and review census records for hours in these libraries. Sometimes, spending 6-9 hours in one day.

None of my fellow researchers knew where all the ancestors came from and when I took road trips and asked the old timers, they replied...their family didn't talk much about their relatives or their past...no interest. No one close to your family really cared about their ancestors.

Maybe Grandma wrote on a few pieces of paper what she knew about the family, or maybe you would be lucky enough to find a family bible with information, but that was about it. There wasn't much help available.

Only by the sweat of our brow and the size of our wallets did we find the records.

**A TRAVELING WE WOULD GO, A TRAVELING WE WOULD GO, HI HO A MERRY -O...**

While others watched football on Sunday or did family activities on the weekends, our family traveled on our vacations to cemeteries, courthouses, family reunions, libraries and relative's homes for ancestral information.

These trips are now called road trips. The information needed to connect these families could only be found in the old dusty vaults of the courthouses or sitting on the porch with a long "lost" relative discussing their family or wading through weeds to try to find "lost" cemeteries, and checking local libraries for books.

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Of course, none of these locations were near to where you lived. Every one of your destinations was across counties and/or states and it took days to even drive to your destination.

Sometimes, the old researchers were plagued by broken down cars needing unexpected repair, rainy days and evenings, traffic backed up clogging the highways, courthouse records in such a disarray, as to render the research process useless, unless you wanted to read and catalog each page of each book.

Some courthouses had their records stored in unindexed cardboard boxes piled in a corner.

If you were lucky, some helpful clerks would go and find records for you in their vaults and share them with you, which would be illegal today. I'm talking of records like divorce and adoption and other records that are not readily available for public access due to the atmosphere of paranoia in today's society.

I saw books of records stacked in a corner of the vault with no indexes or headings of court minutes and other information pertaining to the county. Unless you could spend days and weeks reading and cataloging these records, you didn't have the time and who knows how much valuable information these records held about your family history.

Sometimes the local libraries would refer you to someone that may be related to you and upon driving out to their home, you would discover they were not home or they knew very little about your subject...in fact you knew more than they did about the people and area in which they lived.

However, even with those setbacks, you found deed records not only describing where your ancestor bought land and maybe built their home, but also identified where his children were born, and even some deeds revealed your ancestor's previous domicile.

Knowing what state or locale they came from helped you to determine your next road trip and research. Always focused on your true goal and mission...to link the dots from you ancestor's death to their birth identifying their parents, siblings and spouses. So, one-day you could connect to those old ancestors named in those old books listed in the library as citizens of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and other eastern states.

### **MARRIAGE RECORDS...**

Marriage records were particularly exciting because they...most of the time revealed the bride's birth surname. If you were really lucky she might be underage and her parents or at least her father had to sign a consent form for the marriage.

The marriage record would name her father sometimes both parents of the bride and the groom if both were underage giving you the researcher, a bridge to the previous generation. Also, the officiator who performed the marriage may have been a justice of the peace, or a clergyman identifying his denomination. If you knew the church they belonged, then you could check their church records for more information.

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Sometimes the marriage record would identify the bride as a Miss or a Mrs. This was important in the identifying process because it would reveal her last name on the marriage record to be her birth surname or a previously married name.

While our family were in the vaults of the courthouses, all of our school aged children were given surnames on a piece of paper and given a marriage book and told to write down all the information about those marriages with those particular surnames. After all these years, I still have their handwritten notes listing those marriage records.

If you had more time at your destination you would check the local newspapers for old newspaper articles for information about your ancestors. Death notices, marriage announcements, day-to-day activities and what I found amusing would be visitors who visited your ancestor. Sometimes, these visitors were relatives from far away places revealing where they were living at that particular date and time.

Death notices and/or obituaries were helpful in determining the date an ancestor died and the cemetery in which they were buried. Also, the death notice would usually list the surviving relatives of the deceased and their residences. This was vital to linking family members to the deceased.

After you had exhausted your time, resources and energy at one particular location it was time to move on to your next destination. It could be another city, town or community or a government entity that would be of particular importance in your pursuit of family history.

Regardless of where you were going, you knew there were only a select few of fellow researchers like yourself, whom were willing to pay the price for this knowledge. Out of all the dozens of people who wanted information about the families you had investigated and researched, only a handful took the time and energy to take road trips helping to further common family history knowledge.

For every one dedicated individual who took the road trips, your files were full of letters of "other" people who wanted the knowledge of your research but were not willing to pay their dues with hard work and hands-on research.

This led to an attitude of sheltering your information from the public until you found a select few who were willing to share what they had found with you.

You received letter after letter always asking for information some willing to share what they had. But, most wanted what you had found and to add insult to injury would offer to pay you for the copying cost.

This attitude of wanting hard earned information without compensation led to a tight, closed community of researchers who jealously guarded their information from outside inquiries.

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When we would get inquiries from strangers, asking for everything we knew about their families...their inquiries were ignored.

Today, these "old time" researchers are responsible for 95% of the material discovered on your ancestors on the Internet you can so easily access with a click of the mouse.

**EVERYONE HAD A STORY...**

I remember while researching at a library, looking at microfilm, on more than one occasion jumping up out of my chair with excitement when I discovered a new link to one of my ancestors and shouting out loud with great joy...Eureka!!!!

Other research patrons came over and congratulated me on my success and we were all like a family helping each other find what we were looking for because the task was so difficult and the work so slow and tedious.

It seemed for every one of us who was looking for our ancestors, hundreds of others in the world had little or no interest at all.

I remember, having been elected by default, as the spokesman for our family history at our annual Pratt-Graddy Family Reunions held at Bourbon, Missouri.

As I began my research, I started to give talks and lectures on what I had discovered and a small crowd began to form around my speaking area of the pavilion.

These talks would trigger recollections from the "old-timers" and they told stories about family ancestors revealing astonishing information validating my research.

I remember, on one occasion, I revealed a truth about an ancestor whom most of the old-timers knew, when he was alive, and some in the audience rejected my findings...they didn't believe it!!! Others agreed with me and said they knew about his "other" wife. It was amusing.

Each year I revealed more and more information about our common ancestors and the crowds started to get bigger and bigger and with such renewed interest, my research information eventually became books...Pratt Progenitor Papers in 1992 and has since has grown to more than 60 volumes.

However, the research process was slow and tedious and difficult and with not much help, progress was advancing at a snail's pace. However, all that, was about to change.

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**THE GREAT GENEALOGICAL BOOM...**

For various reasons known to some of the leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, people of African ancestry were not allowed to receive the Priesthood or to attend the temple to do their temple work for their families.

They were allowed membership to the church but were not afforded all the benefits and privileges offered to others. This was not clearly understood by the membership or leadership of the church other than the fact that it was the Lord's will and had to be obeyed.

There were speculations among the rank and file membership of the church maybe this exclusion had something to do with the curse of Cain or something else but none of us knew the reasons or purposes behind the restrictions.

Latter Day Saints, upon my investigation of the Church in 1975 were not racist. In fact, all through the history of the Church, members and missionaries actively sought out peoples of all races to partake of the blessings of the Book of Mormon and the Holy Temples.

There was special emphasis to fellowship Native Americans since the Book of Mormon explains their ancestry and the rise and fall of their great peoples.

So, to deny the African race the full blessings of the Priesthood and the Temple blessings seemed strange in our modern culture and society.

Nevertheless, it was the Lord's wishes and as the Prophets of old, who did what appeared to be strange things on behalf of the Lord...we were an obedient people.

All that was about to change and no one saw it coming...except maybe the Prophet.

**ENTER ROOTS, A NEW AGE...**

In January 1977, a television mini-series program came on TV called, "**ROOTS**".

The author, a black man named Alexander "Alex" Murray Palmer Haley, (1921-1992) who became obsessed with his ancestry in 1963, began a 12 year quest to discover his "roots"...and found them.

During this research period, which eventually took him to Africa, he discovered the tribe in which his family derived. He discovered Kunta Kinte born 1740, captured into slavery, taken to Annapolis, Maryland, sold as a slave and Alex's research followed Kunta's descendants for the next 7 generations.

He was so intrigued by the research, he wrote a book based on the facts of his research and it became the second mini-series ever broadcast on television called "**ROOTS**" in 1977.

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As an avid reader, my mother introduced me to that book long before it became a mini-series. But, I never found the time to read it.

Little did the rest of the world know the impact this book and mini-series was going to have on the world of genealogy.

His book and miniseries were so successful, he wrote a sequel.

The most important appeal of Mr. Haley's book to me, was how he explained the true role the white and African slavers had in the slave movement around the world...especially in America.

It showed the black race as a civilized culture brutally seized from their homes and forced for the sake of monetary gain into slavery.

The similarities between the fate of the treatment of the blacks and the treatment of my Native ancestors by the white European and American race have a strikingly similar distaste.

This mini-series made such an impression on the American physique, after the mini-series aired, **everyone** wanted to know about their families, Black, White, Latino, Asian all races were interested in the answers to the eternal questions; who am I, where did I come from, why am I here, and where am I going.

The big boom for genealogical research took off with a feeding frenzy.

All of a sudden, it appeared, everyone was in the library. People of all races were copying marriage records, deeds, wills and publishing them into books.

There was a waiting list for access to microfilm machines. The National Archives in Washington D.C. bought 100 additional microfilm machines and still there was a 45-minute waiting period for access. It became "in vogue" to research your family.

Publishers saw a dollar in genealogical materials and retooled their machines to print genealogical books.

Individuals began to publish their research material and the library shelves began to fill up with new material. New and larger designated areas in the libraries had to be allocated for these materials.

Genealogical Society's began to expand their memberships; increased monetary contributions allowed them to purchase new and older genealogical collections.

**"ROOTS"** bound the human race together unlike anything I have ever seen. The pursuit for answers about ancestors built a common thread through all races of people in all countries.

Borders became nonexistent. A brotherhood of researchers was developing worldwide.

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Of course, to the outside community nothing had really changed but to us insiders, who had been in the genealogy field, we saw an explosion of interest.

To our way of thinking...the more the merrier. We needed all the help we could get and welcomed the additional researchers and shared what we had with them at no charge so we could bring them up-to-date quickly.

If you have not seen the mini-series..."**ROOTS**", truly you have cheated your soul from enjoying one of the pleasures of this life and a milestone in genealogy research.

**AND ANOTHER MIRACLE TOOK PLACE...**

In June 1978, the Prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Spencer W. Kimball received a revelation and announced the Lord has raised the ban on people of African descent and "All worthy male members are allowed to receive the Priesthood and were encouraged to attend the temple with their families and to administer the ordinances for their dead."

We, as members did not see it coming, however, in hindsight it is obvious the Lord eventually was going to allow people of African descent to participate in full membership activities but only after he had prepared them for such.

Prior to "**ROOTS**", the black race had little or no interest in their family history. What the mini-series did was to instill a pride of ancestry for the black race and stirred up dormant interest and emotions for their ancestors.

Since 95% of our temple work has to do with redeeming the dead, then all men had to be prepared for this great work...but only on the Lord's time schedule.

The thirst for knowledge for family history took off with fervor.

**BOOKS, BOOKS AND DID I MENTION MORE BOOKS?...**

Books were being made available. Whole sections of libraries were being devoted to family history. The microfilm machines at the library at the Church's Family History Library where I was serving were full and a waiting list was in effect. We had to have additional help to handle the increased interest in researching.

Dozens of books appeared on subjects such as "how to trace your family tree". Lists were made up of professional researchers for domestic and foreign interests. Classes were being created at the universities on family history research. Family reunions were being organized all around the world.

I personally had accumulated so much family research information, I became confused and stuck with boxes and boxes of information (15). I was researching 300 or more family lines.

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So, like most advanced researchers, I had reached my capacity to manage such a collection and I did what other researchers have done.....I stopped. And another miracle took place...the computer.

**COMPUTER, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE?...**

What the originators of the modern computer age were unaware; when they invented the computer in the early 1980's...these computers were a tool in the Lord's plan to expedite family history research.

With the advancement of the Apple computer for home use, word processors were being tooled to write letters and databases were created for the purpose of data storage of records.

In a few years in the early 1990's, Bill Gates invented "Windows" which was similar to Apple's MAC program and this made the computer "user friendly" to most users. This opened the door for quick and fast retrieval and storage of genealogical records.

The Church came out with the 1.0 family history computer program in 1984 called the Personal Ancestral File (PAF) to help the members keep track of those ancestors they had researched. And the best part it was cheap or free. That was the year I bought my first computer an Apple IIe. In 1986 I bought an IBM XT. Several years later other software companies came out with their versions of genealogy software.

Sometime in the early 1990's various programmers introduced floppy disks and compact disks known as CD's with ancestral family history data.

The Generations Network created in 2006 later renamed Ancestry.com in 2009 opened for business, but with very limited records or resources. They really didn't come into their own until the middle of the last decade.

There was and still is much resistance to giving ancestry.com or any website all your family records without compensation since it has cost you so dearly to obtain such information.

I didn't join their organization until I found they had completed the database for the census records up to the 1930 census. Then and only then could I justify spending a membership fee to access those records.

However, since then, the Church has written a Beta system program that offers free access to census, marriage and other records. (Known as Family Search)

What the computer did for us early researchers was to give us a tool to organize, print, copy, compile and distribute our information to family members and other family history researchers.

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This exchange of information was done on a trust basis and no one was interested in profiting from information given freely. Even authors who wrote books about their family history only hoped to break even on the printing cost of these books.

However, the genealogy programs available at that time were so limited, about all we could do with those programs was to print family group sheets and pedigree charts and notes because the computer programs were not sophisticated enough to handle pictures or other data.

Also, only those of us who were computer savvy could comprehend the computer language of basic or basicA and write our own programs. Most of the other researchers could not afford or cared to invest into a computer since there was no monetary gain that could be realized.

Therefore, up until around the early 2000's many researchers were still handwriting their family history letters, family group sheets and pedigree charts to fellow researchers.

Copy machines at libraries and courthouses were making a ton of money copying census, deeds, marriages, newspapers, maps and other books written by family history researchers.

It seemed the only people making money on a computer were game programmers who could appeal to the youth. If I had not seen the value of a computer to help me in my insurance business, I would not have invested my time or money in such an endeavor.

Consequently, I discovered the value of a computer could also transcend to my family history research and enable me to speed up and streamline my research efforts.

And I can trace all this interest in the family history boom back to the mini-series "**ROOTS**", as the spark that ignited the flame of Malachi's prophecy into the hearts of the world.

**HOT DIGGITY DOG, MALACHI HOW DID YOU KNOW?...**

And of the prophecy, Malachi 4:5, was being fulfilled before my eyes, "*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*".

This I have seen and testify as a living witness to the fulfillment of this prophecy.

We the children have turned our hearts to our fathers by looking for answers from our past about our ancestors and this has made us closer to our families by turning our hearts to our children in sharing our ancestor's past with our children.

Little does the world know or suspect Elijah did come to the earth and physically fulfill this prophecy.

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This event took place on April 3, 1836, at the first temple built in this dispensation at Kirtland, Ohio.

Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were visited by several personages including the Savior, Moses, Elias and Elijah.

Joseph Smith relates;

*The veil was taken from our minds and the eyes of our understanding were opened. We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us; and his feet was a paved work of pure gold, in color like amber. His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying:*

*"I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father. Behold your sins are forgiven you; you are clean before me; therefore, lift up your heads and rejoice. Let the hearts of your brethren rejoice, and let the hearts of all my people rejoice, who have, with their might, built this house to my name. For behold, I have accepted this house, and my name shall be here; and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house.*

*Yea, I will appear unto my servants, and speak unto them with mine own voice, if my people will keep my commandments, and do not pollute this holy house. Yea, the hearts of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out, and the endowment with which my servants have been endowed in this house. And the fame of this house shall spread to foreign lands; and this is the beginning of the blessing which shall be poured out upon the heads of my people.  
Even so. Amen."*

*After this vision closed, the heavens were again opened unto us; and Moses appeared before us and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.*

*After this, Elias appeared, and committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham, saying that in us and our seed all generations after us should be blessed.*

*After this vision was closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us; for Elijah the prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said:*

*"Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi -testifying that he (Elijah) should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord*

*- come to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse - therefore, the keys of this dispensation and committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors." (Doctrine and Covenants Chapter 110)*

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At the time of this fulfillment of prophecy, the total accumulation of genealogy books in the United States filled a 4-foot shelf in the Boston library. In 1844, the first Genealogical Society was formed.

For thousands of years there was little interest in family histories. Only churches and Royalty kept records. When the pilgrims came to America, they kept records. But most laymen were reluctant to talk about their past or family history.

It was not until the late 1890's, societies like the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and others were developed with an interest in family history.

An interesting fact is during the Passover, the Jewish people light a candle for Elijah because their Torah states he will be sent to them in the near future to fulfill the prophecy of Malicah 4:5. They even place a vacant chair at the dinner table in anticipation of his return.

When we share the Plan of Salvation and the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ with our Jewish brothers, they hear the truth, awakening long dormant feelings and they convert and join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Not because of words, but because of the Testimony of the Holy Ghost, testifying of this truth...spirit to spirit.

One would ask, why the interest in family history? Why now and for what reason? Why do so many feel compelled to do the work?

Why now... because the keys of authority have been granted to man from Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers.

For what reason...to bind families' together forever-through holy ordinances performed on their behalf in the temples of the Lord. This was the promise given to Abraham.

Why do so many feel compelled to do the work... for they were ordained before the foundation of the world to facilitate this work and the Lord had kept his best and most beloved spirits for the last days.

Our love for our ancestors and fellow man is what motivates millions of others like me to do research offering their families the blessings through the holy ordinances done in the Lord's temples. Helping to seal families forever. This is our motivation.

Back to my fellow researchers.

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**Mabel, Julia and Dolly...**

None of these great ladies were members of the church, but they were motivated by some unseen force to do their family research. According to the notes and records, I received and shared with each of those great ladies, Mabel Reed had accumulated an abundance of information but like most researchers it was in boxes and unorganized.

Mabel was strong on Carters, Pratts, & Harmons up to a point. Sometime in the 1980's Mabel suffered several family tragedies and she lost interest and desire for research for a long time. (Over 10 years)

When we made a trip to St. Louis in September 2001, I had the chance to visit with Mabel. However, she was very stricken with old age and could not remember anything much about the Blantons or Pratts. But, that's OK, because I knew her in her prime and she helped steer me in the right direction.

However, in her latter years, concerning the Pratts, she tracked a false lead into Massachusetts and wasted several years tracking that down to no avail. I told her our roots on the Pratts were in North Carolina not Massachusetts.

Julia Blanton received most of her information concerning the Pratts from Blanton relatives as well as public records. She had access to the Blanton family, which I was not as fortunate.

What I noticed was Julia's strong points in her research were the Harmon families. She was very well versed in the various Harmon families, except Susannah (**HARMON**) whom married Jesse Carter, Sr. She lacked any information on that line.

For a long time no one could crack the Susannah (**HARMON**) line and the answer was biting us in the nose every time we looked at the Crawford County, Missouri censuses.

I was able to crack this mystery by attending the Blanton family reunion in Kentucky at Mammoth Cave State Park sometime in the 1980's. Not only did the Blantons take me back on the Blanton family past Absalom and Joshua, but took me back 2 more generations to their Virginian roots in Caroline County, Virginia.

But the big surprise was...someone there at the family reunion was a Harmon researcher and they introduced me by letter to Stephen Harmon who was a direct line descendant of Susannah (**HARMON**) that married Jesse Carter.

I traveled to Tennessee and visited with those Harmon researchers and attended the Harmon family reunion where I secured information about the Harmons all the way back to Palatinate, Germany, with Jacob Hermann circa 1670.

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His descendants were the Harmons who lived in Crawford County, Missouri, one being Trent Harmon who was the brother to Bethany (**HARMON**) who married Joshua Blanton. Bethany was Susannah (**HARMON**) Carter's niece. None of the other researchers had that information, which I made available to interested parties.

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE...**

When I started my Pratt, Kimberlin, Johnson, Carter, Harmon, Blanton research, I was told by several sources, the Pratts and Blantons did not get along together well in Sullivan, Bourbon or the surrounding areas. In other words, they disliked each other. When asked why, no one knew exactly. So, information was not shared between the Pratts and Blantons families and no social attendance was ever entertained.

I attended the Pratt-Graddy family reunion every year when I lived in Missouri and after I discovered the inter-marriage of the Blantons and the Pratts and informed the elders of the family about this discovery, they denied the evidence and did not believe or support my claims. Not all did...some stood by my research and chastised the others but the information about Henry Pratt and the Blantons were not well received.

This prejudice I think carried over into other family units of the Pratts and Blantons.

I attribute this attitude to both families forgetting who they were and where they came from.

It only took one generation for this information to be lost to the majority of the Pratts and Blantons. And their descendants have suffered through ignorance and false pride.

After the miniseries "**ROOTS**", hearts and attitudes had started to change...gradually.

Dolly Lahmann had the least amount of research information on the Pratts, Harmons, Blantons and Carters at that time. But she still contributed and helped steer me in the right directions concerning her Studdard family ties.

However, none of these great ladies knew much about the Alexander Pratt family and collateral lines. Alexander Pratt was my direct line. However, in my church, I am required to research all direct lines for a minimum of 4 generations.

**YOU GET TO...**

In 1976, I wrote a letter to the first presidency of the church requesting permission to research my stepmother's line **instead of** my birthmother's line.

My father and birth mother had divorced when I was 1 year old and I grew up without knowing my birth mother or her family line. I knew all my stepmother's family and felt a kinship with them so I wanted to research their line out of love and respect for them.

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The General Authorities wrote back and congratulated me on my interest in family history and appreciated my feelings and understood my reasons, however, they informed me I had the privilege of researching both lines...my birthmother's *and* my stepmother's families. They said I don't have to...I get to. So I did.

One of the blessings of researching both lines is through road trips, I have made several friends and acquaintances in Tennessee including "lost" family members on my birth mother's side.

Finally in the late 80's, I met my maternal grandmother from California on my birth mother's side and was able to visit with her before she died. She helped answer a great many questions and I feel her short association with my family has enriched all of our lives.

**OTHER HELP...**

My 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandparents; Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt had 11 children, 9 survived. So, Mabel knew a great deal about those five that married into the Blantons. Julia likewise. But when it came to the Missey or Kimberlin connections, they, to coin a phrase, were "clueless". And naturally so...it wasn't their lines.

Since, I am requested by my faith to research ALL family lines, it was my duty to get to know all the family lines on all sides of the family. This led me to JoAnn Missey who helped me a great deal with the Missey and allied families.

She had spent the majority of her life researching the Missey families and tributaries. She connected me with my oldest known Missey ancestor...Jacques Missier with his service in the American Revolution, his participation in the battle at San Juan and revealed his birthplace being Antibes, France.

No other researcher has given me more information on the Missey family than, JoAnn Missey. She was the only one who had done some serious work on the family line. However, her work was a pursuit of the Missey line back to Antibes, France where Jacques was born. She was not as interested in the lateral lines, just the direct line at that time.

I found Missey family information in the French birth and death records of Old Mines in St. Louis. The French have great records all the way back to the 1500's. Not only did I research the Missey's but about 200 other allied surnames.

The same can be said about the Talbott family except no one in Missouri was researching that line. Jo Ann had some information but she was stuck the same as I on Benjamin Talbott's family.

My break came in 1980 when Ruby Simonson McNeill called me from Spokane, Washington and inquired about information I had sent to the Church on the Benjamin Talbott family.

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She was publishing books on all Talbot families called "**The TALBOT TREE**" and I purchased all copies, which were last known to be in the 40th volume. These records made the connection back to England on the Talbot family.

But once again, it had to be verified and proven. After it was proven it was sent to the church records files. I shared all I had with JoAnn Missey including information about Ruby. JoAnn was in contact with Ruby the last I heard.

It would be amiss of me not to mention two other fabulous women who had an immense impact on family history research in Missouri.

I am talking about Miss Nadine Hodges and Mrs. Audrey L. Woodruff with their famous 30 Volume collection of **Missouri Pioneers** and **Missouri Miscellany** and the 6 Volume "**State-Wide Missouri obituaries from the "The St. Louis Christian Advocate" (Methodist) 1851-1882**" collection.

These extraordinary women beginning in the late 1960's wrote many books either together or individually offering collections of deeds, wills, marriages, deaths, tax lists, civil war records and births as well as obituaries representing every county in the state of Missouri.

Another honorable mention is Elizabeth Prather Ellsberry who was responsible for many sets of books covering the census records of Missouri through 1840 to the 1870's.

However, the book that did the researchers the most good in the tri-county area of Crawford, Washington and Franklin County, Missouri was created by the late, great John Steele McCormick titled...."**History of Forest Hill and Vicinity**" 1970.

This volume of work has been a key factor in helping researchers in that locale.

John having served as a schoolteacher in the Crawford County, Missouri area, had a desire to write a book on the families of the students he taught and watched mature during his tenure as schoolteacher.

He sent letters to local residents of the area and thousands responded and he published his 400+ page book in 1970.

All the work these great people mentioned above has been duplicated by thousands of others in counties and states across the United States. Every area had someone who helped compile records for future generations.

As these books became available, researchers like myself amassed a large collection of these invaluable books to help us in pursuit of our ancestors. These books are now rare and most are out of print.

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What amazes me is why these publishers, compilers, researchers even bothered. What was the spark that motivated such diligence and sacrifice?

**THE EARLY 1960'S, CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE BEGINNING...**

The preparation for the great genealogical boom to take place in 1977 had its "roots" in the 1960's.

I knew as a 12-year-old youth when John F. Kennedy was elected President of the United States, changes were in the air. I knew the course of the United States would never be the way it had been and it started in my opinion with the Civil Rights movement.

All through the 1960's, events took place that had never happened in the history of this country or the world.

What I did not know, was to what extent the change would be and how and who it was going to affect.

In hindsight, I can see clearly the Lord was preparing the people of this country for the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy. Now, it is so obvious.

We have been told...the Lord kept his best and choicest spirits for the latter days and proof of this statement has been manifested in the caliber of people mentioned above and their contribution to family history research.

If they were of average character and disposition, then I wouldn't be mentioning a few individuals because **everyone** would have volunteered and sacrificed their time, effort and money to help advance this family history work.

Since, everyone was not interested in family history research, then yes, they were some of the choicest and best spirits the Lord had saved for this work in these latter days...long before I came on the scene in 1976.

**DOCUMENTATION...**

However, with family history research in it's infancy in the 1960's and 1970's, so far as details go, concerning where and when and whom, all of the researchers save a few lacked a basic primary discipline...documentation!!!

Most of what I received from all of them had to be proven again and again, because it was heresy evidence. I'm not talking about stories but copies of documents, marriages, deeds and newspapers articles without identifying the source or repository.

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Having been trained in the techniques of family history research through professional programs offered by my church, I was required to document everything and prove all information before it could be submitted to the temple for ordinances.

Also, taking French for two years in high school helped me to cipher the vital records in St. Louis, which were written in French, concerning my French ancestors.

After proving the information found in my research, I submitted the information to two sources between 1976 and 1986. The Temple file for ordinance work and the Ancestral file of the church.

The ancestral file was made available to all those everywhere who inquired about a family line and if they connected to one of my families, they would receive my name and address and would call or write to me requesting information. Because, I had submitted thousands of names I was overwhelmed with requests.

I had one individual call to inquire about the Hansell line and he thank me for submitting my work to the Ancestral file. He said my work was the starting point for his research into the Hansel family, which he has linked them to England and several additional generations.

This has been my primary purpose...to help others find answers. However, many just took the information without a thank you and failed to give credit where credit was due.

When I use information obtained from other sources, I go out of my way to make sure the title of the book, the author, the publisher and the page number is identified. This is the right and courteous way. And those authors and researchers have earned my respect and deserve the respect of others.

In 1978, I contracted with United Ancestries from Utah to research the Pratts. I gave them my research notes and after searching all the records they could find in Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia, two months and over \$500 later, they could not contribute any more information than what I have already found.

They stated my research was so thorough and well documented; they could not make any suggestions for future search and could not help me further.

I didn't feel this was wasted money and time, because with all their resources available to them in Utah, if anyone could help find more information about they Pratts then I figured they could.

**FILING IN THE HOLES IN THE FAMILY SWISS CHEESE TREES...**

What I have done in my research is to fill in the holes in the family Swiss cheese tree. I have researched the branches of the tree as well as the roots. I have sat at relative's houses gathering information and many of them have now passed away.

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I have found graveyards no one knew existed. I have shared thousands of pages of information, which was freely given to me and I freely gave to others.

I created the Pratt Progenitor Papers in several volumes focusing on a primary progenitor and several generations of descendants.

This was done to organized and to set forth in a logical manner the progression of certain family lines from the past to the present. I intended these publications to be stepping-stones for those whose families were included in those bodies of work.

I have submitted this work to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress. I have proven membership 5 times over in the Sons of the American Revolution Society...if I so desired to join.

I have attended and taught courses in family history and I have found those who need the most help are the veterans of family research...they don't know when to stop.

All this I have done in fulfillment of my church responsibility to my ancestors...and I and my families have been blessed for that obedience.

**IN CONCLUSION...**

I have wrestled with this first chapter in the *M.A.G.I.* series (*Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute*) for many years.

Wondering if I should write what I have seen and been a participant concerning the "old timers" research procedures and difficulties.

After pondering the issue, I finally came to the realization I could not comfortably discard this subject without making known the "way it was". Out of respect and love for my fellow researchers I decided their story needed to be told.

I realize my research experience did not start until 1975, so my entry into this field was as a late comer and not one of the early pioneers of family history research.

However I, having been shown by example of the sacrifice necessary to find this information about our ancestors from previous veteran researchers, knew that I too would have to pay my dues in order to find the answers as they have before me.

So, following their example, I have driven many miles to sit for hours reading through books in libraries from the east coast to the west coast of the United States.

I have sat for hours looking at microfilm machines, looking at census records page after page of documents so light you could hardly read them. Stretching my vision to discern the slightest recognizable letter or name hoping to identify my ancestors.

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***GENEALOGY WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION...IS MYTHOLOGY***

I have driven many miles to wade through weeds waist high looking for "lost" cemeteries that held the resting place of my ancestors.

I have driven many miles to visit the courthouses from county to county, state to state looking for information about the marriages, divorces, deaths, births, deeds and court minutes of my ancestors to help me build their histories from such documents.

I have driven into the backwoods areas of Missouri looking for "realtives" that may know something about my ancestors. And in the process, discovered new friends and family.

I have crossed state lines to far away places repeating what I had done in Missouri looking for answers to questions about ancestors.

And all this I have done because of the example others have set before me...as is written in John 8:38 whereas the Savior speaking to the apostles stated..."*I speak that which I have seen with my Father, and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.*"

As the early pioneers of family research had paved the way for future researchers, by following their example, you too can pave new roads into your family history.

Deed records need to be digitized, marriage records are sparse and need work, newspaper articles needs to be made available. The work has really just started.

The Lord has need of willing hands who wear the workers seal. Be of gladfull hearts there is still much to do.

But remember, the next time you log on to a website and with a click of your mouse button open up an unlimited amount of records...someone, somewhere and at sometime had to research, find, compile and submit those records that you so easily access.

Every record, newspaper, photo, story, family group sheet, pedigree chart, book, military records and immigration records to name a few had to be written, copied, scanned or physically input into a computer database by someone so we could locate the information we seek.

You can show respect for these research "pioneers" and their sacrifice and dedication by acknowledging their contributions to your family history. I know they have earned your respect and it is the right thing to do.

*Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*  
*16 April 2011*  
*Revised 2014*

# Pedigree Chart for Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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<p><b>4 Columbus B A Pratt</b> b. 1 December 1893 p. Hamilton Hollow, Johnson ~ m. 12 April 1919 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 27 July 1947 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~</p>	<p><b>8 Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt</b> b. 6 September 1869 p. near Osage Post Office, J~ m. 29 January 1893 p. Vilander, Liberty Twp, Craw~ d. 24 March 1914 p. near Crow's Creek, Boone~</p>	<p><b>16 Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt</b> b. March 1831 d. 1912</p>	<p><b>32 Henry Pratt</b> b. 1800-1803</p>
<p><b>2 Floyd Theodore "Ted" Pratt</b> b. 6 January 1927 p. near Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford~ m. 1 March 1947 p. Saint Clair, Central Twp, Franklin, M~ d. p.</p>	<p><b>9 Mary L M Missé Missey</b> b. 20 February 1874 p. Johnson Twp, Washington~ d. 17 April 1938 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~</p>	<p><b>17 Mary Kimberlin</b> b. 1835 d. 1876-1880</p>	<p><b>33 Nancy Carter</b> b. 1802-1803</p>
<p><b>5 Rue Flavilla Johnson</b> b. 19 March 1894 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 26 June 1983 p. Briarwood Manor Nursing ~</p>	<p><b>10 Judge J M Johnson Sr.</b> b. 29 September 1854 p. Moselle, Central Twp, Frank~ m. 14 May 1884 p. Liberty Twp, Crawford, Mis~ d. 21 May 1941 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~</p>	<p><b>18 François C Missé Missey</b> b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916</p>	<p><b>34 Rimehart E. Kimberlin</b> b. 1805</p>
<p><b>1 Floyd T Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I.</b> b. 3 January 1948 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ m. 14 August 1972 p. Tyler Place United Presbyterian Ch~ d. p. sp. Bonnie Kathleen Bach</p>	<p><b>11 Mary Jane T Barton</b> b. 18 January 1861 p. near Pine Mountain Post Of~ d. 10 June 1913 p. Walnut Street, Bourbon Vil~</p>	<p><b>19 Cynthia N. Talbot</b> b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896</p>	<p><b>35 Frances Jane Peters</b> b. 1804</p>
<p><b>6 Peter Conley Brown</b> b. 12 January 1893 p. Sharon, Weakley, Tennes~ m. 16 March 1924 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 3 December 1972 p. Halls, District #8, Lauderdal~</p>	<p><b>12 John A. Brown</b> b. May 1844 p. Perry, Tennessee, United ~ m. 18 November 1891 p. Dresden, Weakley, Tenne~ d. 31 July 1928 p. Nashville, Hermitage, Davi~</p>	<p><b>20 Martin Johnson</b> b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859</p>	<p><b>36 Jean B Missé Missey</b> b. 28 May 1821</p>
<p><b>3 Delores "Doe" Virginia Brown</b> b. 31 October 1925 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ d. 1 March 1981 p. Queen of Angels Hospital, 2301 Bel~</p>	<p><b>13 Obedience "Bedie" Lackey</b> b. 6 February 1871 p. near District 8 Post Office, ~ d. 14 January 1924 p. Western State Hospital, Bol~</p>	<p><b>21 Comfort Osborn</b> b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877</p>	<p><b>37 Marie Françoise Piquette</b> b. 4 January 1826</p>
<p><b>7 Olga Elmira O'Daniel</b> b. 11 March 1907 p. Island 21, Dyer, Tennessee~ d. 7 October 1993 p. Los Angeles, Los Angeles~</p>	<p><b>14 James Leonidas O'Daniel</b> b. 15 December 1869 p. near Rutherford Post Offic~ m. 22 May 1897 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 8 March 1921 p. Baird-Dulaney Hospital, Dy~</p>	<p><b>22 William "Billy" Barton</b> b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922</p>	<p><b>38 Benjamin "Ben" Talbott</b> b. 15 June 1811</p>
<p><b>15 Daisy Dean Bell</b> b. 7 September 1881 p. District #19, Walnut Grove~ d. 14 May 1920 p. Jackson Crossing, Civil Dist~</p>	<p><b>23 Harriet King</b> b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920</p>	<p><b>24 Joseph Brown Jr.</b> b. 1827 d.</p>	<p><b>39 Laura Farris</b> b. 12 February 1818</p>
<p><b>16 Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt</b> b. March 1831 d. 1912</p>	<p><b>25 Catherine</b> b. 1825 d.</p>	<p><b>26 William Stevenson Lackey</b> b. 20 October 1822 d. 7 July 1893</p>	<p><b>40 Benjamin Johnson</b> b. 31 March 1775</p>
<p><b>17 Mary Kimberlin</b> b. 1835 d. 1876-1880</p>	<p><b>27 Nancy Basket Moseley</b> b. 11 October 1827 d. 20 September 1875</p>	<p><b>28 Stephen C. O'Daniel</b> b. 5 December 1812 d. 1881</p>	<p><b>41 Amelia</b> b. 23 November 1769</p>
<p><b>18 François C Missé Missey</b> b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916</p>	<p><b>29 Elizabeth Ellen Gordon</b> b. 1840 d. 1872</p>	<p><b>30 John Franklin "Frank" Bell</b> b. 1 July 1850 d. 1892-1893</p>	<p><b>42 William Osborn</b> b. 4 July 1777</p>
<p><b>19 Cynthia N. Talbot</b> b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896</p>	<p><b>31 Hettie M. Jackson</b> b. 16 December 1861 d. 19 April 1902</p>	<p><b>32 Henry Pratt</b> b. 1800-1803</p>	<p><b>43 Rebecca Richmond</b> b. 1784</p>
<p><b>20 Martin Johnson</b> b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859</p>	<p><b>33 Nancy Carter</b> b. 1802-1803</p>	<p><b>34 Rimehart E. Kimberlin</b> b. 1805</p>	<p><b>44 John Milton Barton</b> b. 1799</p>
<p><b>21 Comfort Osborn</b> b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877</p>	<p><b>35 Frances Jane Peters</b> b. 1804</p>	<p><b>36 Jean B Missé Missey</b> b. 28 May 1821</p>	<p><b>45 Sophia Keitle</b> b. 1807</p>
<p><b>22 William "Billy" Barton</b> b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922</p>	<p><b>37 Marie Françoise Piquette</b> b. 4 January 1826</p>	<p><b>38 Benjamin "Ben" Talbott</b> b. 15 June 1811</p>	<p><b>46 Rev. Jonathan King</b> b. 20 December 1800</p>
<p><b>23 Harriet King</b> b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920</p>	<p><b>39 Laura Farris</b> b. 12 February 1818</p>	<p><b>40 Benjamin Johnson</b> b. 31 March 1775</p>	<p><b>47 Mary Holt</b> b. 29 April 1808</p>
<p><b>24 Joseph Brown Jr.</b> b. 1827 d.</p>	<p><b>41 Amelia</b> b. 23 November 1769</p>	<p><b>42 William Osborn</b> b. 4 July 1777</p>	<p><b>48 Joseph Brown Sr.</b> b. 1785</p>
<p><b>25 Catherine</b> b. 1825 d.</p>	<p><b>43 Rebecca Richmond</b> b. 1784</p>	<p><b>44 John Milton Barton</b> b. 1799</p>	<p><b>49 Lydia Hammonds</b> b. 1792</p>
<p><b>26 William Stevenson Lackey</b> b. 20 October 1822 d. 7 July 1893</p>	<p><b>45 Sophia Keitle</b> b. 1807</p>	<p><b>46 Rev. Jonathan King</b> b. 20 December 1800</p>	<p><b>50</b> b.</p>
<p><b>27 Nancy Basket Moseley</b> b. 11 October 1827 d. 20 September 1875</p>	<p><b>47 Mary Holt</b> b. 29 April 1808</p>	<p><b>48 Joseph Brown Sr.</b> b. 1785</p>	<p><b>51</b> b.</p>
<p><b>28 Stephen C. O'Daniel</b> b. 5 December 1812 d. 1881</p>	<p><b>49 Lydia Hammonds</b> b. 1792</p>	<p><b>50</b> b.</p>	<p><b>52 Enos Lackey</b> b. 1797</p>
<p><b>29 Elizabeth Ellen Gordon</b> b. 1840 d. 1872</p>	<p><b>51</b> b.</p>	<p><b>52 Enos Lackey</b> b. 1797</p>	<p><b>53 Luvina Beard</b> b. 1804</p>
<p><b>30 John Franklin "Frank" Bell</b> b. 1 July 1850 d. 1892-1893</p>	<p><b>53 Luvina Beard</b> b. 1804</p>	<p><b>54</b> b.</p>	<p><b>55</b> b.</p>
<p><b>31 Hettie M. Jackson</b> b. 16 December 1861 d. 19 April 1902</p>	<p><b>55</b> b.</p>	<p><b>56 Alexander O'Daniel Sr.</b> b. Abt 1749</p>	<p><b>57 Annie Keathley</b> b. 18 July 1782</p>
<p><b>32 Henry Pratt</b> b. 1800-1803</p>	<p><b>57 Annie Keathley</b> b. 18 July 1782</p>	<p><b>58 John Gordon</b> b. 1813</p>	<p><b>59 Nancy</b> b. 1820</p>
<p><b>33 Nancy Carter</b> b. 1802-1803</p>	<p><b>59 Nancy</b> b. 1820</p>	<p><b>60</b> b.</p>	<p><b>61</b> b.</p>
<p><b>34 Rimehart E. Kimberlin</b> b. 1805</p>	<p><b>61</b> b.</p>	<p><b>62 Alexander Jackson</b> b. 1840</p>	<p><b>63 Mariah "Mary" Ledbetter</b> b. 1840</p>

## A Little Something About Your Author.....

### Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



At the age of 19, Tom Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Tom Pratt started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others.

Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors.

It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 42,000 individuals and achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended multi-state family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

# A Little Something About Your Author.....

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt formed the Pratt Publications Company and offered to the public, a series of books titled, The P ratt P rogenitor P apers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 7 volumes were published with at total of 43 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt formed the G enealogical I nstitute to further the education of serious researchers.

The G enealogical I nstitute offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the uninitiated in the procedures of family history research. These courses offer “a hands on” curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical procedures for tracking your family history.

Beginners and experienced researchers have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses. Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, this course is a valuable tool for the researcher. One of Mr. Pratt’s favorite sections of the course is teaching researchers “how to stop” researching and compile their information for publication.

Upon completion of the educational courses from the G enealogical I nstitute, the graduate is awarded the **M**aster **A**ccreditation of the G enealogical I nstitute. (**M .A .G .I .**)

This designation is equivalent to a Doctorate Degree and signifies the recipient has been trained and demonstrated superior research techniques.

Mr. Pratt’s ability in family history research has amazed many educated researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their “brick wall” in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize this knowledge has been acquired over 30 years of experience and research.

In J une of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task.

Outside of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750’s and traveled west to Missouri after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

# A Little Something About Your Author.....

Mr. Pratt took down all the information off the headstones, including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri"© 2001.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, personal interviews with ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text. What makes this book stand out among the rest is basic content and structure.

First, it is the only book to cover the known and reported inhabitants of an entire cemetery.

Second, this book reports on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children.

Third, even the index is unique, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research of cemeteries should be based. In their opinion, no one has ever produced a body of work about a cemetery as unique and professional as this publication.

Currently, Mr. Pratt is working on a series of books from the [Pratt Archive Collections](#), which is a series of biographical publications concerning a progenitor and a generation of descendants. This collection is a "cradle to grave" report, which covers the subject's ancestry, birth, marriage, children, and geographical domiciles as well as the political environment during the subject's lifetime.

In addition, Mr. Pratt is working on additional volumes of the [Pratt Progenitor Papers](#) and several books on public records.

With all these accomplishments, Mr. Pratt humbly refers to himself as a Genealogical Anthropologist...resurrecting progenitors.

We in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his dedication to helping the novice as well as the professional researcher, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical field.

In addition, we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman  
**G**enealogical **I**nstitute



## Genealogical Institute

### **The M.A.G.I. Courses**

*By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

Over the past 38 years, Mr. Pratt has observed a lack of organized research guidance to help the serious genealogy researcher.

One organization...the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and their Family History Center has been a magnificent repository of information needed to help advance genealogical research.

Another organization, Ancestry.com has a wonderful repository of worldly records with donated family histories, however, even that institution is at the mercy of individuals who are willing to donate their publications and research. Consequently, a multitude of research material never makes it to their doors.

The Genealogical Institute was created to offer superb research tools to help the genealogical researcher in three vital areas... research, academic and publication.

The following tools and courses have been designed to assist the public in genealogical research and help fill the void in their genealogical education.

### **RESEARCH ASSISTANCE DIVISION**

Each person who sets out to research their family history has various motives.

- Some wish to know if anyone was famous in their line.
- Others wish to know how their family came to settle where they did.
- Others want to know basically, why weren't they born rich or wealthy.
- Another group are just curious about the stories concerning their ancestors they heard their parents or grandparents tell them when they were young.
- The last group, and foremost, research and develop their genealogy in order to comply with the Lord's commandments as mandated to their church leadership. This group of people are affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or known to the world as "Mormons".

Regardless of their motives, they all have one common goal and that is to find out factual information concerning their ancestral history.

The Research Assistance Division of the Genealogical Institute was organized to help those researchers who need additional help and want to hire researchers with a common interest in their families.



Many times I have seen work from other paid “professional” researchers and have been disappointed by their results. Not only have they failed to supply answers to the queries presented, but have failed to exceed the client’s expectations.

This kind of research delivers disappointment and discouragement. I feel many professional researchers are more interested in billing hours than offering concrete progress to the client.

Our primary concern at the Genealogical Institute, Research Assistance Division is to open closed doors for the client and allow their research to progress. Therefore, we charge a flat fee. If we cannot progress your inquiry further, we offer alternate suggestions to help your genealogical research.

Our researchers, after researching your ancestor, generate reports sometimes up to hundreds of pages concerning your ancestor. These reports are extremely beneficial and help guide the client to additional resources for family information.

Our researchers have years of experience and knowledge of the migration habits of the early pioneers of the United States and can access vital records needed by the client.

This acquisition of early history required years of academic study as well as location investigations namely; road trips, travel and interviews coupled with visitations to historical sites have increased the knowledge of our researchers beyond the norm.

Due to the common interest in family history, extensive information has been accumulated in our libraries concerning marriages, deeds, probate, births, deaths, obituaries, pension, military and cemetery records of Missouri counties as well as the eastern states.

Not only do we have an extensive library of Missouri records, we also have hard to find rare books concerning Missouri families.

This gives *our* researchers an advantage. Other researchers who are not as familiar with Missouri counties usually stop digging for information and facts when the research gets complex.

Familiarity with the families, location and history is vital to obtaining the answers needed to advance genealogical research.

Over the last 38 years we have amassed information on 42,000 individuals in all points of the United States. Heavy on families who lived in Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Gasconade, Jefferson, Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, and St. Louis Counties of Missouri.

Our research fee is a flat **\$25 per individual**

For this fee you receive a descendency chart on your primary ancestor, pedigree chart, family group sheet, notes, sources, documentation, children’s spouses if known and a detailed report to help you continue researching. If a Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile was developed for your ancestor, we will include their spouse’s profile and a family group sheet showing all children.



If your ancestor is not in our files, we will offer advice as to where you can find information on your ancestor. Sometimes these reports are a few pages and sometimes they are lengthy. If interested, email your information to Floyd Pratt at [floydpratt59@gmail.com](mailto:floydpratt59@gmail.com) and I will notify you as to the extent of information I have in my files.

## **ACADEMIC DIVISION**

There are scores of books describing how to research your family tree. Some emphasize Internet connections, others dwell on family histories and others describe available public resources.

None of these books actually teach you systematically how to research your family history.

With these shortcomings, I have devised a system of courses that teaches the novice how to research genealogy and after completion you will be qualified and designated as a professional genealogy researcher.

This course is called the *Master Accreditation* of the *Genealogical Institute* or better known by the acronym, *M.A.G.I.*

*M.A.G.I.*

Many researchers feel they already know how to research their family history. However, I have found that many researchers can only do one thing well.

[1] Some are Internet pirates and can copy information from the Internet.

[2] Others can write local or civic histories, still others have developed proficiency in writing personal histories.

[3] Very few have attained a level of skills mastering the spectrum of genealogical research.

The Master Accreditation course teaches the skills necessary to achieve a Master designation in genealogical research with the proficiency of a doctorate at the academic level. This is achieved through years of study and dedication to the art of genealogical research.

The *M.A.G.I.* course teaches three phases of advancement. First; compilation, second; research and third; exposition. Within each of these divisions lies a significant amount of educational information.

## **COMPILATION**

Requires the gathering of information concerning genealogical research. In this phase, the student is taught how to interview, how to record, and how to preserve information concerning the ancestors they are interested in researching.

In addition they are taught the correct method of transcribing the information into their records. Many times I have been appalled by the inadequate research methods utilized by researchers and their failure to document their research. The student is taught professional procedures.



Protocols for visiting relatives, libraries, cemeteries and public records are discussed and verified as part of the educational process. At the end of each lesson are questions and sometimes-physical requirements necessary for the student to progress. After successfully completing each portion of the course the student advances on to the next level of training.

## **RESEARCH**

Valuable resources are discussed and listed according to significance. Everything from family histories to public records are evaluated and prioritized according to the importance of the research process.

How, where, when and why are answered pertaining to the source of documentation... emphasizing validation procedures.

- How to find information when needed.
- Where to look for needed information.
- When to visit the necessary sources.
- Why question and validate each source.

Critical investigative procedures are emphasized and required. Deductive reasoning and learning to read "sign" are vital components of the academic process.

And finally after spending months and years acquiring genealogical information the most important procedure of all is revealed...how to quit.

Much of this information has been obtained expending time, effort and great expense. What to do with this information and how to preserve it for future generations leads us to the final phase of the Master Accreditation course.

## **EXPOSITION OR PUBLICATION**

With years of research material, usually I have found many researchers are lost as to the disposition of such investment and dedication. This phase teaches how to preserve and publish your material for outside sales.

Also, of vital importance are the dissertation procedures. The student is taught every phase from giving an oratory report and how to teach classes concerning their research.

Finally, the publication process can be broken down into three areas.

- Publishing material on your own family history.
- Publishing material on the family history of others.
- Publishing material through the "Adopt a County" program.



After accumulating volumes of information concerning your direct ancestors, publishing your family history on your own ancestors lends credibility and legitimacy to your work. The course teaches how and offers alternative methods for publication.

Publishing material on the family history of others can be accomplished in various means. This course investigates these methods and helps the student achieve the desired results.

As a final test of proficiency in the genealogical researching process, the "Adopt a County" program was instigated to challenge the student to use all the knowledge and resources acquired over the tenure of their career.

Upon completion of the course and to the satisfaction of the directors of the **Genealogical Institute**, the student is awarded the certificate of the *M.A.G.I.*

This distinction represents years of study and assures the public the bearer holds a high level of proficiency in the field of genealogical research.

Many researchers today have achieved various degrees of proficiency in genealogical research but very few have risen to the level of a *M.A.G.I.*

It is with great pride and satisfaction that we can offer a program of this caliber to the public.

Lewton Cole  
Chairman



## MASTER ACCREDITATION OF THE GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE

### *M.A.G.I. Courses*

*By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

## Course Lesson 1:

### "Genesis...in the Beginning"

To acquaint the researcher with the origin and history of genealogy also known as family history research and the progress of the use of modern day tools for its progression and popularity.

This course examines all facets of family history research from its prophetic origins to the preparation through inspiration and implementation by various inspired individuals.

This course reveals the originator of family history research and the steps taken to fulfill latter day prophecy as depicted in the Holy Scriptures.

We take a stroll, with the author through the early years and look at the last 50 years of the evolution of family history research and the impact this multimillion-dollar industry has had on society.

Upon completion of this lesson, the student is enlightened to the divine purpose and eternal consequences of family history research and the importance of such endeavors.

Subscribers, upon completion of this lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

## Course Lesson 1:

### "Genesis...in the Beginning"

Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00 please email for an order form



## Course Lesson 2:

### **"To Organize or Not to Organize...There is no Question"**

Acquaint the researcher with the understanding of organizing their research work. To teach the proper procedures when collecting, copying, cataloging and storing hard research data.

This lesson covers the various types of documents found in family history research. Covering everything from copies of pages, to photos, newspaper clippings, to testimonies, and the storage of this data in paper and computerized files.

This course teaches what documents to keep for storage and which to discard. How to scan and how to preserve various sources for easy access and future retrieval.

Also covered and the most important of storage procedures...how to establish a system for recording notes, emails, photos, legal documents and all manner of paperwork.

This course also teaches, how to set up Master Family Files on your computer in one location for storage of these documents for easy retrieval and back up procedures.

The above method has been used by the author for over 40 years and teaches the student an easy system for storing vital and irreplaceable data.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

## Course Lesson 2:

### **"To Organize or Not to Organize...There is no Question"**

Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00 please email for order form



## Course Lesson 3:

### **"The Hotel GEDCOM"**

To acquaint the researcher with the understanding of the GEDCOM capabilities of computer programs. To teach the proper procedures when saving, converting and creating genealogical files for use in various programs and multiple computers.

Using a unique and highly inventive analogy, Mr. Pratt teaches the basic understanding concerning the history and origins of the GEDCOM file. This GEDCOM system is used around the world as a standardized method of transporting information from one incompatible computer program and system to another.

This course not only educates the student to the history of this file, but also teaches the student how to import and export these files into various incompatible family history computer programs. Thereby, allowing you to share with family, friends and interested parties access to your family history data.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

## Course Lesson 3:

### **"The Hotel GEDCOM"**

Available as a .pdf file sent over email or on a cd for \$35.00 Please email for an order form



## Course Lesson 4:

### *"A Rose by any other name..."*

To acquaint the researcher with a uniform method for displaying maiden names, married names, subsequent married names and adopted names when it pertains to our female ancestors and relatives.

There are several instances where identifying a female's maiden surname, married name, adopted name and subsequent married names needs to be adopted into the family history research community as a standardized method.

This course teaches a method to standardize female birth surnames as to render any female's identity immediately recognizable to the genealogical community.

This method was developed over the last 39 years, which clarifies and conveys to the student an easy, recognizable marital status of any female, but also addresses married names, adopted names and subsequent married names.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

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## Course Lesson 4:

### *"A Rose by any other name..."*

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## Course Lesson 5:

### **"THE ANATOMY OF THE CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE"**

To acquaint the researcher with the proper techniques in organizing the data identifying their ancestor from the Cradle to the Grave, henceforth known as the Cradle to Grave [C2G] Profile.

Developed by this author over the last 38 years, the Cradle to Grave Profile is an extremely useful tool to the family history researcher.

After one identifies their ancestor, organizing various sources of documentation including but not exclusive, internet, courthouse, cemetery, census, federal military records, funeral home, land purchases and sales, newspaper articles and any other source that mentions or eludes to your ancestor is of primary importance.

The purpose of this accumulation of data is to verify your ancestor's existence, movements, achievements, failures and successes.

This course teaches the student where to collect source documents, and how to enter these references into their ancestor's notes.

Starting from birth and acquiring all known references to their ancestor's birth, following the natural progression of their ancestor's chronological events in their life, eventually concluding with their ancestor's gravesite information.

This course teaches the student how to create headings, source references, and comments also, how to add additional references and how to extract commentary conclusions from such data.

Once a profile has been created, following the chronological life of the individual is easy to read and understand and prepares the student for expanding what they have learned about their ancestor into a biographical story, article or book of that individual.

This course provides an example of a comprehensive Cradle to Grave Profile.

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## Course Lesson 5:

### **"THE ANATOMY OF THE CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE"**

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## Course Lesson 6:

### **"How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall"**

To acquaint the researcher with various techniques in identifying the parentage of their ancestor when no direct information can be found, consequently known in the genealogy field as "brick walls."

A brick wall is an ancestor you run across that just seems to pop-up out of thin air. You can't seem to find information about them or their parentage. Either this ancestor is the end-of-the-line in your family history tree or because of a lack of information about them, they create an end-of-line problem. We all have them.

This course teaches the student several methods for identifying their end-of-line ancestor and lists 11 sources for creating "bridges" to and from your ancestor and offers a 7-step process for identifying the next generation.

By following these 7 steps outlined in this lesson, the student will not only discover their "brick wall's" parentage, but most likely will discover additional generations.

Mr. Pratt offers examples of techniques such as mock census records, projecting, name and resident associations and provides hands-on examples of these successful methods.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

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## Course Lesson 6:

### **"How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall"**

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## Course Lesson 7:

### **"Virtual Road Trips"**

To acquaint the researcher with the process of utilizing a Virtual Road Trip without leaving their hometown.

This chapter will explain the resources available for collecting, correlating, analyzing and acquiring data from local and Internet resources.

Due to the explosion of family history sources on the Internet, several websites offer extensive material to family history researchers. This course teaches the student where to find information concerning their ancestors from various websites, which are either fee based or free to the public.

Also, included in this course is information concerning local repositories housing various family history materials such as Family History Centers and libraries, including a section on plat maps, and indexing services as well as various websites of help and interest to the family history researcher.

Included is a section titled, **"Before You Take the Road Trip"** outlining the steps you should have taken before your sojourn to various locations looking for ancestor records.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

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## Course Lesson 7:

### **"Virtual Road Trips"**

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## Course Lesson 8:

### **"How to Clean up Dirty Pictures"**

To acquaint the researcher with the process of cleaning up pictures and/or documents whether under the ***Joint Photographic Experts Group commonly known as a JPEG .jpeg*** format or the Device Independent Bitmap (DIB) file format known as the BITMAP **.bmp** formula.

Pictures of people, places or documents have...depending on the resolution, a small to excessive amount of dirt acquired by the copying or printing process. This dirt can manifest itself as particles of dust, blips, lines and erroneous markings spoiling or defacing the picture, document or drawing.

This course will introduce the student to various techniques used to remove these annoying distractions returning the document as close as possible to its original creation.

Utilizing various computer programs, such as Paint, which is free, and others, which can be purchased for a nominal fee, the student learns how to repair damaged pictures or documents and add captions to the document in or outside of frame.

This course is a must for those who have pictures but are unfamiliar with manipulating the contents with identifying headings and footnotes for future generations.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

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## Course Lesson 8:

### **"How to Clean up Dirty Pictures"**

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## Course Lesson 9:

### **"MAKING SENSE OF THE CENSUS"**

Acquaint the researcher with the understanding of the modern day census. To teach the student the proper procedures when searching, reading and recording census data.

After a brief history of the census and the importance thereof, Mr. Pratt details the historical significance of the census in the United States. Covering such subjects as soundex, mortality schedules, state and federal census, this course also examines the census syntax.

This course also explains the census page section-by-section detailing each portion of the census record on a decade-by-decade basis offering a unique original census grid for each decade.

Offering keen observations to the student on what to look for, where to look for it, and how to read associations when viewing a census.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

## Course Lesson 9:

### **"MAKING SENSE OF THE CENSUS"**

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## Course Lesson 10:

### **“GRANTEE-GRANTOR WHAT’S THAT MEAN?”**

To acquaint the researcher with the symbols and diagrams of topographical maps, especially pertaining to reading of townships, sections and deed locations.

This course arms the student researcher with the knowledge of map reading for road trips to those locales mentioned in deeds. Contains examples of maps locating deed descriptions so one can find the property of their ancestors.

Examples of older deeds and the terms used then before our current day references. This course is for those who find map reading confusing and hard to understand.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

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## Course Lesson 10:

### **“GRANTEE-GRANTOR WHAT’S THAT MEAN?”**

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## Course Lesson 11:

### **"RESEARCH MOBILITY"**

To acquaint the researcher with the process of locating, saving, transporting and sharing family history information.

Many of us use various genealogy programs to collect and store our family history material.

This course teaches how to locate and transport these vital records from the original location on your computer to a safe and secure location.

With varied genealogy programs, the average novice does not know where their information is stored on their computer or how to access that information.

In the event of a power failure, or computer malfunction, extracting that vital family history data is beyond the knowledge of most people.

Transporting their family history from one computer to another is also a skill that most cannot understand.

This course is designed to give the average family history researcher the ability to extract, transport and save their data so they may use their family history information on any computer they choose.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

Upon completion of all M.A.G.I. course lessons, the student is awarded a certificate and the M.A.G.I. designation.

## Course Lesson 11:

### **"RESEARCH MOBILITY"**

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## Course Lesson 11:

### **"GENERATING REVENUE"**

This course teaches the advanced family history researcher how to publish their family histories. After the hard work of research, collecting and correlating your ancestor's Cradle to Grave Reports (C2G) there are several avenues of publishing these reports and generating revenue.

This course teaches how to create Cradle to Grave (C2G) Individual Reports, Family Group Sheet Reports, Descendancy Reports, Ancestry Reports, Pedigree Reports and biographical books.

Also, you learn how to generate these reports within various genealogy programs, as Adobe Acrobat .pdf files, Word documents .doc and common text files.

Mr. Pratt also, teaches the student how to create cover pages, contents, indexes, inserting photos, deeds and other vital documents completing the publishing process.

This course also offers various methods of displaying these creations and how to maximize your distribution to the clients and customers who would be interested in your ancestors.

Subscribers, upon completion of each lesson, complete a written exam testing their knowledge of the course contents and perform examples by implementing course principles. Each successful exam completes a step to the M.A.G.I. designation.

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## Course Lesson 11:

### **"GENERATING REVENUE"**

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